

Reference Number: 2023/1019

21 November 2023

[REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

### Response - Official Information Request

I refer to your request for information received on 8 November 2023. Your request has been considered under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA) and I provide the following information.

***“A list of projects that were to be funded by Transport Choices, how far along these were (i.e. planning/scoping, or about to begin construction, etc – in whatever way makes sense for you), and how much investment had been put into these projects monetarily (i.e. spending on design, engagement and consultation, etc).”***

The Transport Choices project is a key initiative held by Horowhenua District Council (the Council) to execute the Councils’ long-term Walking and Cycling strategy. It focuses on enhancing pedestrian infrastructure for vulnerable road users along Queen Street East (between Cambridge Street and Bartholomew Road), and Cambridge Street (between Bath Street and Queen Street East).

The detailed design encompasses the construction of raised safety platforms and kerb buildouts on side roads for both road sections. Additionally, the project includes drainage improvements in the work site vicinity and the construction of splitter islands at multiple locations on Queen Street East. This project plays a crucial role by aligning with Waka Kotahi’s goals of reducing carbon footprint and ensuring pedestrian safety.


In terms of planning and design, Waka Kotahi has rigorously reviewed and recently approved the design. However, due to a recent change in government, Waka Kotahi has issued instructions to all beneficiary Councils to temporarily pause/hold the project. The original plan was for construction to commence on 24 February 2024.

The total approval funding for implementation was initially \$2.437 million, with an additional \$451,000 allocated for pre-implementation activities. Following a workshop with councillors, the project scope was reduced and funding adjusted to \$2.061 million while pre-implementation funding remained unchanged. Furthermore, Waka Kotahi has requested an additional 10% reduction in funding for all Transport Choices projects nationwide.

Presently, Council has utilized \$191,428.47 from the pre-implementation fund. This expenditure covers engaging external consultants for project management support, internal labour for design, and the procurement of traffic counters.

You are entitled to seek an investigation and review by the Office of the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or free phone 0800 802 602.

Horowhenua District Council publishes responses to Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA) requests that we consider to be of wider public interest, or which relate to a subject that has been widely requested. To protect your privacy, we will not generally publish personal information about you, or information that identifies you. We will publish the LGOIMA response along with a summary of the request on our website. Requests and responses may be paraphrased.

If you have any queries regarding this information, please contact Monique Davidson on 

Ngā mihi



Monique Davidson  
**Chief Executive**